

CURRENT INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

**Manufacturers' Shipments,
Inventories, and Orders****April 1975**

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New orders for manufactured products in April increased \$4,708 million or 6.4 percent to \$78,590 million after seasonal adjustment, which represents the largest increase in manufacturing new orders since December 1954. Shipments increased \$3,112 million or 4.0 percent to \$80,140 million. Although new orders rose in April, they continued to lag behind shipments so that the backlog of unfilled orders declined \$1,555 million or 1.3 percent to \$122,243 million at the end of April. Total inventories decreased \$1,151 million or 0.8 percent to \$150,043 million at the end of April. The inventories to shipments ratio decreased from 1.96 to 1.87, which represents the first decrease in the inventories to shipments ratio since October 1974.

For the 3 months ending in April the average increase in new orders was 1.7 percent compared with a 4.6 percent decrease for the 3 months ending in January and a 0.4 percent decrease for the 3 months ending in October.

New orders for durable goods increased \$3,438 million or 9.7 percent to \$38,930 million. The increase in new orders of durable goods was widespread among all industrial sectors with large increases being concentrated in the electrical machinery industries (\$642 million), the motor vehicles and parts industries (\$622 million) and the primary metals industries (\$452 million). Among the supplementary series, household durables increased \$418 million and the capital goods industries increased \$812 million with the nondefense sector increasing \$858 million and the defense sector decreasing \$46 million.

Shipments of durable goods increased \$1,966 million or 5.1 percent to \$40,609 million in April. The increase in durable goods shipments was generally widespread with the motor vehicles and parts industry (\$652 million) and fabricated metal products (\$416 million) registering the largest increases in shipments. Shipments of nondurable goods increased \$1,146 million or 3.0 percent to \$39,531 million. The increase in nondurable goods was accounted for by virtually all sectors with the foods industry (\$324 million) recording the largest increase.

Unfilled orders for durable goods continued to decline in April as shipments continued to outpace new orders. Unfilled orders decreased \$1,683 million or 1.4 percent to \$118,416 million at the end of April. Most industries recorded declines in unfilled orders with the largest decreases recorded in primary metals (\$561 million) and nonelectrical machinery (\$465 million).

Inventories of durable goods decreased \$105 million and nondurable goods decreased \$1,046 million between the end of April and March. At the all manufacturing level, materials and supplies decreased \$1,240 million, work in process increased \$375 million and finished goods decreased \$286 million.

The figures on the durable goods industries in this report supersede those issued earlier in the advance report on durable goods. The present report is based on more complete reporting, but the estimates are also considered preliminary. Final figures will appear as historical data in the report to be published for next month. The advance report on durable goods for March is scheduled for release on June 20, 1975 and the full report is scheduled for release on July 1, 1975.

This report contains data on an unadjusted and seasonally adjusted basis. However, the data are not adjusted for price changes. For an explanation of terms used in this report see appendix following table 5.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE | Social and Economic Statistics Administration | BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Inquires concerning these figures should be addressed to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Industry Division, Washington, D.C. 20233. For sale by the Subscriber Services Section (Publications), Social and Economic Statistics Administration, Washington, D.C. 20233 or any Department of Commerce District Office. Price: 15 cents per copy, \$1.50 per year.

Table 1.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS, BY INDUSTRY GROUP

(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	Shipments						Total inventories					
	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment ¹			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment ¹		
	Apr. 1975 ^D	Mar. 1975 ^R	Feb. 1975	Apr. 1975 ^D	Mar. 1975 ^R	Apr. 1974	Apr. 1975 ^P	Mar. 1975 ^R	Feb. 1975	Apr. 1975 ^P	Mar. 1975 ^R	Apr. 1974
All manufacturing industries:												
Total.....	80,140	77,028	78,875	81,786	80,184	50,823	150,043	151,194	151,993	151,212	151,930	129,464
Total, excluding transportation.....	71,195	68,733	70,891	72,335	71,122	71,628	128,715	130,074	130,601	129,769	130,649	110,870
Durable goods industries, total.....	40,609	38,643	39,653	42,011	40,802	42,699	99,774	99,879	100,082	100,700	100,482	84,911
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	2,189	2,000	2,072	2,224	1,997	2,229	3,774	3,781	3,741	3,923	3,906	3,147
Primary metals, total.....	5,974	6,143	6,852	6,588	6,580	7,757	13,735	13,381	13,015	13,757	13,472	9,749
Blast furnaces, steel mills.....	3,035	3,252	3,699	3,444	3,518	3,641	7,220	6,920	6,620	7,177	6,934	4,515
Nonferrous metals.....	1,832	1,813	2,004	1,975	1,922	3,052	4,750	4,661	4,588	4,783	4,722	3,822
All other primary metals.....	1,107	1,078	1,149	1,169	1,140	1,064	1,765	1,800	1,807	1,797	1,818	1,412
Fabricated metal products												
total.....	5,106	4,690	4,902	5,174	4,783	4,948	11,941	12,090	12,045	12,058	12,077	9,677
Metal cans, barrels, and drums.....	585	506	582	581	490	486	1,183	1,244	1,203	1,201	1,234	955
Machinery, except electrical, total.....	7,448	7,291	7,415	7,765	7,900	7,172	22,440	22,400	22,168	22,662	22,592	18,275
Engines and turbines.....	547	563	540	524	659	519	1,984	1,957	1,946	1,980	1,958	1,578
Farm machinery and equipment.....	829	732	794	963	877	802	2,123	2,136	2,072	2,170	2,232	1,598
Construction, mining, and material handling equipment.....	1,604	1,591	1,590	1,718	1,715	1,407	4,924	4,822	4,657	4,973	4,880	3,570
Metalworking machinery.....	565	518	541	556	579	478	1,899	1,897	1,886	1,908	1,899	1,564
General industrial machinery.....	761	754	740	769	785	641	1,984	1,968	1,972	2,028	1,996	1,569
Electrical machinery, total.....	5,415	5,066	5,197	5,269	5,211	5,552	14,093	14,347	14,758	14,247	14,337	13,489
Electrical transmission and distribution equipment and industrial apparatus.....	1,091	1,045	1,138	1,093	1,104	1,093	3,122	3,186	3,256	3,151	3,207	2,946
Household appliances.....	722	679	678	732	738	801	1,219	1,266	1,310	1,246	1,259	1,215
Radio and TV.....	486	376	377	353	353	375	1,040	1,136	1,218	1,076	1,071	1,171
Communication equipment.....	1,330	1,252	1,289	1,382	1,254	1,237	4,227	4,206	4,274	4,256	4,265	3,847
Transportation equipment, total.....	8,945	8,295	7,984	9,431	9,062	9,195	21,326	21,120	21,392	21,443	21,281	18,594
Motor vehicles and parts.....	5,771	5,119	4,799	6,221	5,727	5,891	6,328	6,266	6,428	6,335	6,366	5,589
Aircraft, missiles, and parts.....	2,093	2,184	2,257	2,053	2,280	2,049	11,507	11,267	11,355	11,536	11,370	10,020
Shipbuilding and railroad equipment.....	600	588	508	602	611	431	2,748	2,756	2,788	2,743	2,705	2,167
Instruments and related products, total.....	1,432	1,358	1,328	1,404	1,356	1,244	4,057	4,132	4,223	4,140	4,145	3,777
Scientific and engineering..	748	712	713	750	724	661	2,041	2,097	2,110	2,068	2,099	1,923
All other instruments and related products.....	684	646	615	654	634	583	2,016	2,035	2,113	2,072	2,046	1,854
All other durable goods industries.....	4,100	3,800	3,903	4,156	3,911	4,602	8,406	8,628	8,740	8,470	8,672	8,203
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	39,531	38,385	39,222	39,775	39,382	38,124	50,269	51,315	51,911	50,512	51,448	44,553
Food and kindred products, total.....	13,637	13,313	13,656	13,333	13,546	12,171	11,464	11,752	11,930	11,250	11,594	10,962
Meat products.....	2,751	2,669	2,702	2,696	2,651	2,727	1,184	1,163	1,180	1,229	1,184	1,278
Fats and oils.....	1,277	1,230	1,315	1,278	1,230	1,085	819	667	941	844	916	859
Tobacco products.....	603	606	616	584	591	531	3,037	3,069	3,095	3,119	3,226	2,630
Textile mill products.....	2,476	2,391	2,309	2,438	2,543	2,806	4,243	4,360	4,543	4,357	4,479	4,898
Paper and allied products, total.....	3,141	3,037	3,230	3,160	3,164	3,258	4,726	4,856	4,877	4,773	4,841	3,691
Pulp, paper, etc.....	1,389	1,349	1,425	1,404	1,412	1,479	1,760	1,783	1,775	1,776	1,785	1,315
Paperboard containers.....	748	755	814	772	771	826	1,299	1,325	1,327	1,304	1,321	1,053
All other paper containers..	1,004	933	991	984	981	953	1,667	1,748	1,775	1,693	1,733	1,323
Chemicals and allied products, total.....	6,716	6,711	6,863	7,264	7,011	7,094	10,941	10,887	10,875	11,045	11,020	7,908
Industrial chemicals, except pigments.....	2,198	2,134	2,169	2,361	2,277	2,226	3,008	3,035	2,990	3,014	3,050	2,171
Drugs, soap, and toiletries.....	2,008	1,950	1,875	1,951	1,995	1,577	3,748	3,789	3,804	3,781	3,797	2,660
Petroleum and coal products... total.....	5,042	4,901	4,854	5,009	4,875	4,499	4,120	4,203	4,210	4,030	4,112	3,239
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.....	1,940	1,821	1,899	2,051	1,911	1,985	3,089	3,173	3,227	3,159	3,240	2,825
All other nondurable goods industries.....	5,976	5,605	5,795	5,936	5,736	5,780	8,649	8,995	9,154	8,779	8,936	8,400

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS, BY INDUSTRY GROUP--Continued

(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	New orders						Unfilled orders					
	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment ¹			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment ¹		
	Apr. 1975 ^P	Mar. 1975 ^F	Feb. 1975	Apr. 1975 ^P	Mar. 1975 ^F	Apr. 1974	Apr. 1975 ^P	Mar. 1975 ^F	Feb. 1975	Apr. 1975 ^P	Mar. 1975 ^F	Apr. 1974
All manufacturing industries:												
Total.....	78,590	73,882	76,139	79,585	77,538	83,152	122,243	123,798	126,939	123,942	126,151	124,875
Total, excluding transportation.....	70,001	66,177	68,109	70,612	69,094	74,013	89,449	90,645	93,197	91,088	92,839	93,393
Durable goods industries, total.	38,930	35,492	37,023	39,666	38,107	44,904	118,416	120,099	123,246	120,040	122,392	119,632
Primary metals, total.....	5,414	4,961	5,378	5,487	5,596	7,680	11,818	12,379	13,560	13,061	14,154	15,696
Blast furnaces, steel mills.	2,710	2,344	2,721	2,652	2,778	3,247	6,249	6,574	7,481	7,280	8,073	9,453
Nonferrous metals.....	1,758	1,683	1,707	1,868	1,805	3,194	2,677	2,752	2,882	2,857	2,964	3,519
Fabricated metal products.....	4,812	4,449	4,784	4,900	4,695	5,642	18,720	19,013	19,253	18,825	19,101	17,165
Machinery, except electrical, total.....	6,981	6,759	6,805	7,382	7,439	8,105	27,440	27,905	28,438	27,753	28,137	25,324
Engines and turbines.....	455	512	523	477	620	534	6,880	6,972	7,023	6,938	6,935	6,461
Construction, mining, and material handling equipment.	1,414	1,470	1,283	1,605	1,700	1,823	6,846	7,006	7,127	6,942	7,055	5,422
Metalworking machinery.....	473	427	450	473	474	573	2,181	2,274	2,364	2,159	2,242	2,334
General industrial machinery.	845	801	724	838	833	750	3,453	3,369	3,323	3,543	3,474	2,642
Electrical machinery, total...	5,304	4,662	4,931	5,061	4,809	5,942	19,596	19,709	20,113	19,427	19,635	21,430
Electrical transmission and distribution equipment and industrial apparatus.....	1,067	897	699	1,053	984	1,248	6,073	6,096	6,245	6,076	6,116	6,243
Household appliances.....	728	676	693	734	740	798	115	110	113	120	118	123
Radio and TV.....	514	307	369	378	292	385	394	367	435	374	349	561
Communication equipment.....	1,268	1,216	1,400	1,230	1,162	1,496	7,076	7,138	7,175	6,968	7,120	6,772
Transportation equipment, total.....	6,589	7,705	8,030	8,973	8,444	9,139	32,794	33,153	33,742	32,854	33,312	31,482
Aircraft, missiles, and parts.....	1,769	1,846	2,650	1,828	1,748	1,756	20,783	21,109	21,446	20,729	20,954	18,493
Shipbuilding and railroad equipment.....	701	439	279	548	655	499	8,507	8,407	8,556	8,590	8,644	8,012
All other durable goods industries.....	7,830	6,956	7,095	7,863	7,124	8,396	8,048	7,940	8,140	8,120	8,043	8,535
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	39,660	38,390	39,116	39,919	39,431	38,248	3,827	3,699	3,693	3,902	3,759	5,243
Industries with unfilled orders.....	8,954	8,484	8,641	8,991	8,778	9,276	3,827	3,699	3,693	3,902	3,759	5,243
Industries without unfilled orders.....	30,706	29,906	30,475	30,928	30,653	28,972	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Represents zero.

^P Preliminary.^F Revised.¹ Adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations.

Table 2.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS, FOR MARKET CATEGORIES AND SUPPLEMENTARY SERIES
(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment ¹			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment		
	Apr. 1975 ^D	Mar. 1975 ^R	Feb. 1975	Apr. 1975 ^D	Mar. 1975 ^R	Apr. 1974	Apr. 1975 ^D	Mar. 1975 ^R	Feb. 1975	Apr. 1975 ^D	Mar. 1975 ^R	Apr. 1974
	Shipments						Total inventories					
All manufacturing industries, total..	80,140	77,028	78,875	81,785	80,184	80,823	150,043	151,194	151,993	151,212	151,930	129,464
Durable goods industries, total.....	40,609	38,643	39,653	42,011	40,802	42,699	99,774	99,879	100,082	100,700	100,482	64,911
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	39,531	38,385	39,222	39,775	39,382	38,124	50,269	51,315	51,911	50,512	51,448	44,553
Industry groups arranged by market categories:												
Home goods and apparel.....	7,330	6,554	6,515	6,574	5,881	7,202	13,018	13,582	14,085	13,282	13,523	13,857
Consumer staples.....	16,613	16,211	16,400	16,308	16,434	14,760	19,197	19,538	19,657	19,102	19,515	16,809
Equipment and defense products, except automotive.....	11,319	11,094	11,363	11,617	11,780	10,692	39,294	39,226	39,093	39,636	39,492	33,424
Automotive equipment.....	6,879	6,100	5,801	7,485	6,774	7,337	7,970	7,967	8,178	8,043	8,148	7,361
Construction materials, supplies, and intermediate products.....	5,980	5,545	5,769	6,158	5,507	6,627	12,973	12,996	12,990	13,220	13,229	11,257
Other materials and supplies and intermediate products.....	32,219	31,524	32,996	33,364	32,608	34,205	57,591	57,885	57,990	57,929	58,023	46,756
Supplementary series: ²												
Household durable goods industries.....	3,181	2,918	2,898	3,064	3,049	3,160	6,797	7,070	7,318	6,928	7,020	6,760
Capital goods industries.....	12,680	12,484	12,729	12,809	13,147	12,241	43,873	43,713	43,816	44,213	43,591	37,547
Nondefense.....	10,944	10,770	10,976	11,081	11,443	10,664	36,912	36,846	37,102	37,211	37,017	31,532
Defense.....	1,736	1,714	1,753	1,728	1,704	1,577	6,961	6,867	6,714	7,002	6,574	6,015
	New orders						Unfilled orders					
All manufacturing industries, total..	78,590	73,882	76,139	79,585	77,538	83,152	122,243	123,798	126,939	123,942	126,151	124,675
Durable goods industries, total.....	38,930	35,492	37,023	39,666	38,107	44,904	118,416	120,099	123,246	120,040	122,392	119,632
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	39,660	38,390	39,116	39,919	39,431	38,248	3,827	3,699	3,693	3,902	3,759	5,243
Industry groups arranged by market categories:												
Home goods and apparel.....	17,210	6,474	6,501	6,955	6,811	7,254	2,130	2,053	2,143	2,080	2,016	2,870
Consumer staples.....	16,611	16,197	16,389	16,291	16,413	14,736						
Equipment and defense products, except automotive.....	11,038	10,228	10,504	11,131	11,000	11,584	62,790	63,206	64,176	62,946	63,615	59,741
Automotive equipment.....	6,746	5,997	5,653	7,286	6,644	7,506						
Construction materials, supplies, and intermediate products.....	5,683	5,339	5,561	5,969	5,530	7,289	16,960	17,255	17,461	17,134	17,322	15,698
Other materials and supplies and intermediate products.....	31,302	29,647	31,501	31,953	31,140	34,763	40,363	41,284	43,159	41,782	43,198	46,366
Supplementary series: ²												
Household durable goods industries.....	3,248	2,830	2,842	3,108	2,959	3,168	1,560	1,495	1,580	1,508	1,462	2,200
Capital goods industries.....	12,036	11,224	12,117	12,065	11,946	13,447	71,694	72,339	73,598	71,934	72,679	66,651
Nondefense.....	10,380	9,522	9,970	10,594	10,377	12,072	46,790	47,353	48,600	47,195	47,683	45,360
Defense.....	1,656	1,702	2,147	1,472	1,569	1,375	24,904	24,986	24,998	24,739	24,996	21,491

¹During 1968 manufacturers in ordnance, communications, aircraft and aircraft parts, and shipbuilding industries began to provide aggregate figures on shipments, orders, and total inventories of work performed for the Department of Defense. The results of these reports are included in the defense series. ^PPreliminary. ^RRevised. ²Shipments and new orders adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations; unfilled orders and inventories as of end of month. ³The supplementary series are regroupings of the separate industry categories as follows:

Household durable goods industries - Household furniture; kitchen articles and pottery; cutlery, handtools, and hardware; household appliances; ophthalmic goods, watches, and clocks; and miscellaneous personal goods.

Capital goods industries - The capital goods industries series is comparable to the previous Producers' Capital Goods and the Defense Products (old series) categories.

Nondefense products - Machinery, except electrical (excluding farm machinery and equipment and machine shops), electrical machinery (excluding household appliances and electronic components), and the nondefense portions of shipbuilding and repairing and railroad equipment, communication equipment, aircraft and aircraft parts, and ordnance.

Defense products - Based on separate reports on defense work filed by large defense contractors in the following industries: ordnance, communications, aircraft and aircraft parts, and shipbuilding. The data are comparable to those published annually in the MA-175, Shipments of Defense-Oriented Industries, for the specified industries.

Table 3.--MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS MONTH-TO-MONTH AND LONG TERM PERCENT CHANGES

(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Item and industry group	Month-to-month			Average monthly rates of change				Average, 1969-1974	
	Mar.- Apr. 1975 ^P	Feb.- Mar. 1975 ^F	Jan.- Feb. 1975	3 months			12 months Apr. 1974- Apr. 1975	Average rise	Average decline
				Jan.- Apr. 1975	Oct. 1974- Jan. 1975	July- Oct. 1974			
Shipments:									
All manufacturing industries.....	+4.0	-2.3	-0.3	+0.5	-3.5	+1.6	+0.2	+1.5	-1.4
Durable goods industries, total.....	+5.1	-2.5	-1.2	+0.5	-4.8	+1.8	-0.1	+1.9	-2.0
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	+3.0	-2.1	+0.6	+0.5	-2.0	+1.4	+0.4	+1.3	-1.0
Total inventories:									
All manufacturing industries.....	-0.8	-0.5	+0.2	-0.4	+1.5	+2.0	+1.3	+0.8	-0.1
New orders:									
All manufacturing industries.....	+6.4	-3.0	+1.6	+1.7	-4.6	-0.4	+0.2	+1.9	-1.8
Durable goods industries, total.....	+9.7	-4.1	+2.7	+2.8	-7.1	-1.8	-0.9	+2.5	-2.7
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	+3.3	-1.9	+0.6	+0.7	-1.9	+1.2	+0.4	+1.3	-1.1
Unfilled orders:									
Durable goods industries, total.....	-1.4	-2.6	-2.1	-2.0	-2.1	+1.2	+0.1	+1.7	-1.1

Table 4.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES, BY STAGE OF FABRICATION, BY INDUSTRY GROUP

(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment		
	Apr. 1975 ^P	Mar. 1975 ^F	Feb. 1975	Apr. 1975 ^P	Mar. 1975 ^F	Apr. 1974	Apr. 1975 ^P	Mar. 1975 ^F	Feb. 1975	Apr. 1975 ^P	Mar. 1975 ^F	Apr. 1974
	Total						Materials and supplies					
All manufacturing industries, total..	150,043	151,194	151,993	151,212	151,930	129,464	53,245	54,485	54,997	53,061	54,256	44,377
Durable goods industries, total.....	99,774	99,879	100,082	100,700	100,482	84,911	33,640	34,304	34,561	33,339	33,833	26,703
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	3,774	3,781	3,741	3,923	3,906	3,147	1,455	1,457	1,473	1,462	1,465	1,162
Primary metals.....	13,735	13,381	13,015	13,757	13,472	9,749	6,323	6,238	6,193	6,059	6,051	3,965
Machinery (electrical and nonelectrical).	36,533	36,747	36,926	36,909	36,929	31,764	11,299	11,553	11,561	11,374	11,538	9,341
Transportation equipment.....	21,328	21,120	21,392	21,443	21,281	18,594	4,701	4,797	4,918	4,708	4,830	3,838
All other durable goods industries.....	24,404	24,850	25,008	24,668	24,894	21,657	9,862	10,259	10,416	9,736	9,996	8,397
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	50,269	51,315	51,911	50,512	51,448	44,553	19,605	20,181	20,436	19,722	20,373	17,674
Chemicals and allied products.....	10,941	10,837	10,875	11,045	11,020	7,908	4,469	4,448	4,523	4,481	4,485	3,308
Petroleum and coal products.....	4,120	4,203	4,210	4,030	4,112	3,239	1,016	1,050	1,108	1,009	1,031	777
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.....	3,089	3,173	3,227	3,159	3,240	2,825	1,080	1,143	1,157	1,076	1,126	1,071
All other nondurable goods industries....	32,119	33,052	33,599	32,278	33,076	30,581	13,040	13,540	13,648	13,156	13,731	12,518
	Work in process						Finished goods					
All manufacturing industries, total..	49,351	48,976	49,295	49,716	49,393	44,960	47,447	47,733	47,700	48,435	48,281	40,127
Durable goods industries, total.....	41,896	41,513	41,632	42,257	41,921	38,037	24,238	24,062	23,889	25,104	24,678	20,171
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	492	495	498	532	537	435	1,827	1,829	1,770	1,929	1,904	1,550
Primary metals.....	4,200	4,043	3,794	4,300	4,152	3,551	3,212	3,100	3,028	3,398	3,255	2,233
Machinery (electrical and nonelectrical).	15,530	15,523	15,761	15,608	15,598	14,494	9,704	9,671	9,604	9,927	9,793	7,929
Transportation equipment.....	14,691	14,420	14,594	14,776	14,532	13,119	1,936	1,903	1,880	1,959	1,919	1,637
All other durable goods industries.....	6,983	7,032	6,985	7,041	7,102	6,438	7,559	7,559	7,607	7,891	7,796	6,822
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	7,455	7,463	7,664	7,459	7,472	6,923	23,209	23,671	23,811	23,331	23,603	19,956
Chemicals and allied products.....	1,756	1,698	1,677	1,767	1,715	1,267	4,716	4,741	4,675	4,797	4,820	3,333
Petroleum and coal products.....	1,084	1,092	1,075	1,070	1,068	880	2,020	2,061	2,027	1,951	1,993	1,582
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.....	511	518	543	509	521	428	1,498	1,512	1,527	1,574	1,593	1,326
All other nondurable goods industries....	4,104	4,155	4,369	4,113	4,148	4,348	14,975	15,357	15,552	15,009	15,197	13,715

^PPreliminary.^FRevised.

Table 5.--RATIO OF MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES TO SHIPMENTS AND UNFILLED ORDERS TO SHIPMENTS, BY INDUSTRY GROUP
(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Industry group	Inventories - shipments ratio				Unfilled orders - shipments ratio (months' backlog)			
	Apr. 1975 ^D	Mar. 1975 ^R	Feb. 1975	Apr. 1974	Apr. 1975 ^D	Mar. 1975 ^R	Feb. 1975	Apr. 1974
All manufacturing industries, total.....	1.57	1.96	1.93	1.62	2.74	2.88	2.85	2.68
Durable goods industries, total.....	2.45	2.58	2.52	2.01	3.30	3.48	3.44	3.21
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	1.72	1.89	1.81	1.38	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Primary metals.....	2.30	2.18	1.90	1.38	1.98	2.02	1.98	2.00
Fabricated metals.....	2.34	2.58	2.46	1.96	4.14	4.54	4.44	3.89
Machinery, except electrical.....	3.01	3.07	2.99	2.63	3.68	3.83	3.84	3.64
Electrical machinery.....	2.60	2.83	2.84	2.33	3.62	3.89	3.87	3.77
Transportation equipment.....	2.38	2.55	2.68	2.13	6.48	6.71	6.84	6.33
Instruments and related products.....	2.83	3.04	3.16	2.91	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	1.27	1.34	1.32	1.17	0.43	0.44	0.42	0.56
Food and kindred products.....	0.84	0.88	0.87	0.90	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Tobacco products.....	5.04	5.06	5.02	4.66	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Textile mill products.....	1.71	1.83	1.97	1.67	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Paper and allied products.....	1.50	1.60	1.51	1.13	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Chemicals and allied products.....	1.63	1.62	1.58	1.21	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Petroleum and coal products.....	0.62	0.86	0.87	0.73	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.....	1.59	1.74	1.70	1.47	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

(NA) Not available. ^DPreliminary. ^RRevised. (X) Not applicable.

¹Excludes the following industries with no unfilled order: Wooden containers; glass containers; metal cans, barrels and drums; motor vehicle assembly operations; foods and related products; tobacco; apparel and related products; chemicals; petroleum and coal products; and rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.

Appendix

The following is a description of the survey and definitions used. These are provided to clarify the meaning of the items involved and do not represent any revisions from those definitions previously employed.

DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY

The Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders survey provides monthly figures that are comparable to the annual totals published each year in the Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM). The ASM is based on a sample of approximately 60,000 manufacturing establishments drawn from the 5-year census universe of about 310,000 establishments. In the ASM, each manufacturing establishment provides data on employment, payrolls, shipments, cost of materials, capital expenditures, and inventories as well as other selected items. The establishments do not provide information on unfilled orders or new orders. Since the ASM is establishment based, it provides data for each of the 425 manufacturing industries in the Standard Industrial Classification System (SIC) and area data for industry groups.

The monthly survey M3-1 does not provide information at the complete SIC industry detail because of the smaller size of the reporting panel and the fact that most companies cannot provide shipments, inventories, and orders data monthly for individual establishments.

The monthly reporting panel consists of approximately 5,000 reporting units and includes virtually all companies with 1,000 or more employees and a sample of the smaller ones. The reporting unit typically comprises the entire operations of a company although many of the larger diversified companies file separate divisional type reports for their operations in different industries.

Most of the reporting units include mixed industry activity even within the broad industry categories of the monthly survey. The survey methodology assumes that the month-to-month changes of the reporting units classified in each industry category represent effectively the month-to-month movements of the establishments in the SIC industries which make up the category. Thus, the monthly reports are used to update the ASM estimates by using a link relative of matched companies in each industry.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Value of Shipments—Shipments in the monthly survey are equivalent to value of shipments as reported

in the ASM which are received or receivable net selling values, f.o.b. plant, after discounts and allowances and excluding freight charges and excise taxes. Included in shipments are the value of all products sold, transferred to other plants of the same company, or shipped on consignment.

Shipments also include receipts of establishments in the industry for contract work performed for others, resales, receipts for miscellaneous activities such as the sale of scrap and refuse; value of installation and repair work performed by employees of the plant; and value of research and development performed at the plant. In the aircraft industry and shipbuilding, the value of work done in a given year varies considerably from the value of shipments because of the long lead time between the input of the materials and labor and the shipments of the completed aircraft or ship. In the annual survey, therefore, the value of work done during the year is requested rather than the value of shipments.

The value of shipments figures developed from the ASM contain duplication at the all manufacturing and industry group levels since the products of some industries are used as materials by other industries within the industry group. With the exception of motor vehicles, it is not significant at the 4-digit SIC group level. Since the M3-1 industry categories typically are groupings of industries, this duplication is significant for the all manufacturing, durable goods and nondurable goods categories and the various market groups. The significance of the duplication within the specific M3-1 industry groups varies depending on the 4-digit industry composition of these groups. It is most pronounced in a few highly integrated industry areas such as primary metals and motor vehicles and parts.

Since most monthly reports are for the entire company or major divisions rather than establishments, the companies are requested to report net sales, i.e., total company billings after discounts and allowances. Companies which file divisional reports are requested to treat transfers from one division of the company to another as if they were net sales to outside customers. Although this definition of shipments in the monthly reports differs from that used in the annual establishment reports, it is assumed that the month-to-month changes in company sales in the industry are representative of the month-to-month shipments of the establishments in the industry.

Inventories—End-of-month inventories in the monthly survey are identical in definition to the end-of-year inventories in the ASM. In the ASM, respondents are asked to report inventories of individual establishments at approximate current cost if



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feasible; otherwise, "at book values." Since different methods of inventory valuation are used (LIFO, FIFO, etc.), the definition of the aggregate inventories for establishments in an industry is not precise. The figures on the change in inventories from one period to the next are of greater significance than the actual aggregates.

Inventories are reported by stage of fabrication: (a) finished goods; (b) work in process; and (c) materials, supplies, fuel, and other inventories. In using inventories by stage of fabrication at the all manufacturing and 2-digit industry levels as well as for the durable and nondurable goods sectors, it should be noted that a finished product of one industry may be a raw material for another industry at the next stage of fabrication. Insofar as the durable and nondurable goods sectors and also the 2-digit industry groups contain industries with successive stages of processing, the same type of commodity may be included under different inventory categories in the aggregate statistics.

New Orders Received and Unfilled Orders—Orders as reported in the monthly survey are net of cancellations during the month. They include orders received during the period and also filled during the period as well as those orders received for future delivery. They

also include the net sales value of contract change documents which increase or decrease the sales value of the unfilled orders to which they relate. Orders include only those supported by binding legal documents such as signed contracts, or letter contracts. In case of letter contracts the full amount of the sales value is included if the parties are in substantial agreement on the amount; otherwise, only the funds specifically authorized to be expended are included. The respondent is instructed to deduct the sales value of partial or complete cancellation of existing orders.

Unfilled orders include orders as defined above that have not yet passed through the sales account. Generally, unfilled orders at the end of the reporting period are equal to unfilled orders at the beginning of the period plus net new orders received less net sales.

While both new orders and unfilled orders are used in reviewing individual company reports for consistency, only unfilled orders are estimated directly in the tabulated totals. New orders are derived from the shipments plus net change in unfilled orders for each industry category. This procedure is followed for seasonally adjusted data as well as for the unadjusted data. Shipments and unfilled orders are seasonally adjusted independently. Seasonally adjusted new orders are derived from seasonally adjusted shipments and seasonally adjusted unfilled orders.

